IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-18, 22 and 24-44.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing metered capacity of at least one temporary resource on demand in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions, the method comprising the steps of:

   receiving an enablement code from a user of the computer system, wherein the enablement code includes a specified resource-time;

   determining whether the enablement code is valid;

   if the enablement code is valid, performing the steps of:

      enabling the at least one resource for metered operation by a selected logical partition;

      determining whether the enabled resource is shared, and if so, metering actual usage of the at least one resource by the selected logical partition above a predetermined non-zero threshold that specifies allowable usage of the at least one resource by the selected logical partition; and

      billing for the actual usage of the at least one resource by the selected logical partition above the predetermined non-zero threshold.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of billing for the actual usage comprises the step of generating a bill for metered resource-time that represents actual use of the at least one resource.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of billing for the actual usage comprises the step of deducting metered resource-time from a prepaid resource-time.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of disabling the at least one resource when the metered actual usage of the at least one resource exceeds a specified resource-time.

24-44. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claim.

45. (New) A computer-implemented method for providing metered capacity of at least one temporary resource on demand in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions, the method comprising the steps of:

    requesting an enablement code from a resource provider for the computer system;

    receiving the enablement code from the resource provider, wherein the enablement code includes a specified resource-time for a selected resource;

    enabling the selected resource for use;

    if the selected resource is dedicated to one of the plurality of logical partitions, performing the steps of:

        starting a meter timer;

        using the selected resource until a time to bill occurs;

        sending a record of metered usage to the resource provider based on value of the meter timer; and

        the resource provider sending a bill for the metered usage of the selected resource to a customer;

    if the selected resource is not dedicated to one of the plurality of logical partitions and is shared between first and second logical partitions, performing the steps of:

        the first logical partition using the selected resource without charge until the metered use of the selected resource by the first logical partition exceeds a first predetermined non-zero threshold that specifies allowable usage of the selected resource by the first logical partition;

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metering use of the selected resource by the first logical partition that exceeds the first predetermined non-zero threshold until a time to bill occurs;

sending a record of metered usage of the selected resource that exceeds the first predetermined non-zero threshold to the resource provider;

the resource provider sending a bill for the metered usage of the selected resource that exceeds the first predetermined non-zero threshold to the customer;

the second logical partition using the selected resource without charge until the metered use of the selected resource by the second logical partition exceeds a second predetermined non-zero threshold that specifies allowable usage of the selected resource by the second logical partition;

metering use of the selected resource by the second logical partition that exceeds the second predetermined non-zero threshold until a time to bill occurs;

sending a record of metered usage of the selected resource that exceeds the second predetermined non-zero threshold to the resource provider; and

the resource provider sending a bill for the metered usage of the selected resource that exceeds the second predetermined non-zero threshold to the customer.